

## Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

### Objection from Ruebens

**Claim:** a significant increase in noise and vibration caused by members of the public entering and exiting the premises.

**Counter-claim:** Ruebens does not have any guest rooms at all on the ground floor near the entrance and their accommodation is at the back of the hotel, well away from the entrance to Mardi Gras. As we have agreed with the Police to only have selected members of the public until 12:30 am, this should not be an issue, and signage is posted about when leaving the building. We predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street.

**Claim:** continual foot traffic from non-residential guests will inevitably cause an intolerable nuisance to ourselves and our guests.

**Counter-claim:** This is a non-sense to claim that every day we will have the full 30 invited members of the public constantly walking up and down the 9ft entrance hall non-stop, and that they will cause more noise than the guests we already have. Ruebens does not have any guest rooms at all on the ground floor near the entrance and their accommodation is at the back of the hotel, well away from the entrance to Mardi Gras.

**Claim:** People on the external terrace, drinking, sitting or smoking until 2am will cause nuisance to our neighbours and guests.

**Counter-claim:** At present any of our residents can sit on the terrace with no time limit at all, we are proposing with the Environmental health and Polices approval to close the terrace for drinking and socialising at 10pm, allowing smoking only thus actually illuminating the noise that would occur. The neighbours to the left, across the road have added letters of support to our application, and others did not agree with Ruebens to object, even tho heavily canvassed to do so.

**Claim:** The issues with Fernlea

**Counter-claim:** This has nothing to do with us, and we are not applying for a public licence in the same vein as The Fernlea has theirs. It is not fair to punish others over their issues.

**Claim:** Crime and Disorder, people arriving and leaving late at night, without doubt this will cause disorder.

**Counter-claim:** As stated earlier, we have agreed to only have invited members of the public until 12:30am with approval from the Police, the sort of people we invite via a bell door entry will be vetted, any heavily under the influence of alcohol will not be allowed in. As stated earlier, we predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street.

**Claim:** Once the public leave the vicinity of the property, it will add to the frequency of crime and disorder on our street.

**Counter claim:** This is a total nonsense to claim that a few invited people will immediately leave the Mardi Gras to wreak havoc on Lord Street, once again showing the fear mongering from Ruebens hotel, we predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street. As stated earlier, the Police have approved 12:30am as a cut off time to serve invited members of the public and we have an arrangement with a taxi company to phone for anyone that wishes to use one.

**Claim:** Mardi Gras will turn it into a drinking street, no security staff, or public cctv in the vicinity of Mardi Gras.

**Counter-claim:** More fear mongering, what sort of invited guests do they think we want to attract? As stated earlier, the main objective is to diversify in these difficult times to keep the hotel going, we predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street. We have installed wide angle cctv cameras at the door and both ends of the terrace of Mardi Gras that show both sides of Lord Street and is recorded 24 hours a day, yet I do not recall seeing any outside cctv on Ruebens hotel.

**Claim:** It would be a major threat to our wellbeing and livelihood

**Counter-claim:** This is nonsense and we have been victimised since the Mardi Gras has had 30,000 pounds spent on it and it has been totally renovated and we have seen the Ruebens attitude change because of this. We were warned by people on Lord Street and even Ashley Harris's friends that this would happen, as they did the same thing to the previous owners and drove them out. Ruebens does not like competition and have orchestrated a witch hunt against us since we applied for the licence. They told us that all of Lord Street has members of the public in on the quiet, and no-one does things above board, because we said we was going to do it legally and above board, it seems we have upset the apple cart. They systematically went round every hotel telling lies to get people on side to object and used their influence on BAGS to do the same (hence Granby Lodge), even then most local businesses either supported our application or refused to object. They have even rang the Police about made up claims of noise to try and taint our reputation when we don't currently live in the hotel. We have been victimised by Ruebens and hope the council can see through it by looking at the past complaints history of them against previous owners.